

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NASA-04 NSF-04 NAS-01 COME-00

PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 OTPE-00

RSR-01 /121 W

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P 051422Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2362

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SCI FOR POLLACK, EUR/NE FOR GEORGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, TECH, UK

SUBJECT: US LAUNCHER LICENSING IN EUROPE

REF: (A) LONDON 4703, (B) LONDON 6658, (C) LONDON 7373

1. URGENTLY REQUEST REPLY TO REF(A), TRANSMITTING
MINISTER OF AEROSPACE AND SHIPPING HESELTINE'S
QUESTIONS RE U.S. LAUNCHER LICENSING IN EUROPE.

2. AT AMBASSADOR'S FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION, MINISTER
FOR AEROSPACE AND SHIPPING, MICHAEL HESELTINE, ONCE
AGAIN QUERIED US REGARDING LONG-AWAITED US REPLY TO HIS
LETTER OF APRIL 18 (REF A) CONCERNING US CONDITIONS FOR
LICENSED PRODUCTION OF SPACE LAUNCHERS IN EUROPE.
CLEARLY IRRITATED BY LONG DELAY IN US RESPONSE, HE AT
FIRST ASSERTED THAT ISSUE MAY NOW BE LARGELY ACA-
DEMIC BECAUSE REPLY WOULD BE TOO LATE TO BE USED EF-
FECTIVELY IN PREPARING UK POSITION FOR JULY 12 MEET-
ING OF EUROPEAN SPACE COUNCIL. HE LATER CONCEDED
THAT A REPLY BY JULY 9 MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT. HESELTINE
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AGAIN STRESSED SUBJECT IN DISCUSSION WITH VISITING

UK DESK OFFICER (FLOYD) UNDERLINING URGENCY OF THE
MATTER.

3. SAME POINTS WERE MADE BY DTI DEPUTY SECRETARY
J. A. HAMILTON TO ECON COM MIN JULY 3. THESE CON-
VERSATIONS, AT BOTH POLITICAL AND SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT
LEVELS, ARE EVIDENCE OF GREAT INTEREST IN AVAIL-
ABILITY OF US LAUNCHERS IN HMG.

4. WHETHER OR NOT WE CAN BE FORTHCOMING IN OUR REPLY
TO HESELTINE'S REQUEST, SIMPLE COURTESY REQUIRES
THAT WE ANSWER HIM IN SOME FORM. OUR CONTINUED
NON-RESPONSE TO HIS REPEATED INQUIRIES COULD SERIOUSLY
ERODE THE HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WHICH NOW EXISTS
BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND DTI. THIS WOULD, IN TURN,
LESSEN OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE UK POSITIONS ON MAT-
TERS OF EC POLICY OF VITAL CONCERN TO US.

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